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THE
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EDITORIAL.

DANIEL ROGERS NOYES.

It has assuredly not been uninteresting to observe in the series of biographical sketches which have appeared in these columns the varying nationality, origin, and early environment of the men who have made their way to positions of prominence and success in the drug trade. In no better way could we gain a conception of the diverse elements which have entered into our commercial life and which will impart to the future American type features which cannot now be conjectured. We have had an American type in the past; we shall have a distinctively national character in the future; but for the present, amalgamation of varied elements is proceeding, and the final result is yet remote.

The extraction of Mr. Noyes must be sought for among those New England families who for a long period made all our history, and whose descendants today fill the majority of our high places, commercial, professional, and political. Mr. Noyes was born at Lyme, Conn., Nov. 10, 1836; was educated in the best schools of New England; and in 1854 removed to New York State, where he engaged in business. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a volunteer, but his term of service was curtailed by ill-health. Some of the following years were spent in domestic and foreign travel; on his return he re-engaged in business as a partner in the banking house of Gilman, Son & Co.

Coming to St. Paul in 1868, Mr. Noyes soon after founded the house of Noyes, Pett & Co., now Noyes Bros. & Cutler—the most extensive drug house of the Northwest, whose trade extends to the Pacific coast and New Mexico, and approximates in volume two millions annually.

Mr. Noyes is senior member of this firm; is Vice-President of the St. Paul Trust Co.; Vice-President of the Real Estate Title Insurance Co.; director in the Merchants' National Bank; director in the Union Land Co.; director in the New York Equitable Life Insurance

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Causes of Turbidity in Solutions of Zinc Chloride.

Extemporaneous solutions of zinc chloride are often turbid. Hence the following explanation offered by M. Carles and abstracted in *Répertoire de Pharmacie:*

Commercial chloride of zinc, dry or in solution, always contains oxide of zinc. Dissolving this salt in the cold, an elevation of temperature is produced which favors the dissolution of a part of the oxide contained in the chloride; the quantity of oxide of zinc dissolved increases with a rise in temperature and with the quantity of chloride of zinc in the solution. If the solution be filtered immediately after dissolving the salt, the filtered and limpid solutions soon grow turbid. Complete cooling of the solution must accordingly be waited for.

The developed precipitate is the oxychloride of zinc, which, when examined microscopically, is seen in the form of hexagons or of jagged and fragile needles. It is easy to see that such solutions must give pain when hypodermatically injected after the manner of M. Lannelongue.

Nor should it be forgotten that a cold solution of chloride of zinc becomes turbid on the addition of water, dissociation occurring in such case. Hence, solutions of chloride of zinc should not be filtered until after adding the entire quantity of water which they are to contain.

These solutions should always be prepared with distilled water. Common water, containing carbonate of lime, produces five times as much precipitated oxychloride as distilled water; the liquid then acquires a degree of acidity which is capable of provoking pain in the patient.

Is Boric Acid Injurious?

Dr. L. Tortchinsky, in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire de Bordeaux*, says he used boric acid in two hundred and forty cases of typhoid fever in the course of an epidemic, and reports excellent results; only nine patients died, and they succumbed during the period of convalescence because they got out of bed too soon, or committed errors in diet. The two hundred and thirty-one other patients made a rapid and complete recovery. In all the cases the patients were given a dose of castor oil with from five to ten drops of oil of turpentine. After this mixture had operated, the administration of boric acid was begun, the remedy being given internally, either in powder or solution, in doses ranging from twelve to fifteen grains for an adult, three or four times a day. When there was bronchitis the boric acid was associated with expectorants and with hydrochloric acid. As a general rule, at the end of from three to five days the fever and the diarrhœa underwent a noteworthy diminution, the tympanites disappeared, the dejecta lost their odor and became normal in appearance, the urine became abundant and in every way normal, the tongue and skin grew moist, and the general condition was good. As soon as the amelioration was well marked, the use of the acid was discontinued, and tonics were ordered. Under the influence of this treatment the disease followed a favorable course, its duration was somewhat diminished, and complications were very rare. The most decided effects were obtained in cases treated early. The author has found that the effects of the boric-acid treatment may be increased by combining with that drug small doses of acetanilid, quinine, naphthalin, or salol. The mixture with quinine is especially useful in the last stages of the fever, when there are ataxia, delirium, and other cerebral symptoms; it is useful also in cases of relapse. The author has never observed any harmful effect from the use of boric acid. He has also produced satisfactory results with this acid in the treatment of the summer diarrhœa of children.—*Food and Sanitation.*

The Uses of Animal Extracts.

Between such organs as, for example, the brain and the thyroid gland, there are many and great differences. One of these differences is all-important: The thyroid gland is a secretory organ; the brain is not. Without entering into a discussion of the exact nature of the process, concerning which the evidence is not clear, it is sufficient to know that clinical and experimental observations are at one in demonstrating that the thyroid gland manufactures some substance which, by its function in the economy, prevents the occurrence of the symptom-complex termed myxœdema or cachexia strumipriva. The principle is exactly the same as that upon which we administer pepsin or pancreatin in digestive disorders; the body failing to furnish a certain substance which is necessary to the proper nutrition of all the organs, we supply that lack by administering a similar substance obtained from animals.

It will be observed, moreover, that whatever it may be that is accomplished by administering thyroid extract, it is not the cure of the disease of the thyroid gland. No one, surely, expects to cure disease of the peptic glands by giving pepsin, or disease of the pancreas by giving pancreatin. Cure can only be obtained by measures which will secure natural reproduction of the missing secretions.

The brain, so far as we know, secretes nothing physical; so far as we know, there is no symptom or symptom-complex which can be attributed to defect in any supposed secretory function of the brain. Consequently, there is nothing in the whole nosology which, on theoretic grounds, the administration of brain extract could be expected to remedy. Similarly the heart, so far as we know, secretes nothing, and there is no symptom or symptom-complex which can be attributed to default of supposed secretory function on the part of the heart. Equally, therefore, there is no ground for the administration of heart extract to remedy disorders caused by disease of that organ. For, let us remember, the thyroid extract does not cure thyroid disease, the thymus extract does not cure disease of the thymus, the pancreatic extract does not cure disease of the pancreas; and to expect brain extract to cure brain disease, or heart extract to cure heart disease, is on a par with the science of the Obi-doctor and the practice of the lizard-giving Chinamen.—S. Solis-Cohen, M.D., in *Polyclinic.*

French Ideas of Pharmaceutical Education.

In a paper in the *Bulletin de Pharmacie de Bordeaux*, Professor Huguet, of the Clermont-Ferrand School of Medicine and Pharmacy, outlines a programme of pharmaceutical education. He first defines a pharmacist as one who practices pharmacy, and then describes the latter as an art, depending upon numerous scientific data,

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